

**7**

an alkali metal deposited within the cell; and  
a coating of parylene on an interior surface of the cell;  
wherein the alkali metal comprises an optically pumped  
gaseous phase of an alkali metal, and the parylene  
coating minimizes interaction of the excited state of the

**8**

alkali metal, increases lifetime of the excited state, and  
minimizes interaction of nuclear spin states with the  
cell walls.

\* \* \* \* \*